



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE

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BOARD FINALIZES HIRING NEW COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Today, the Kentucky Board of Education officially named Stephen L. Pruitt as the sixth Kentucky Commissioner of Education. Pruitt is currently senior vice president at Achieve, Inc., an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit education reform organization, where he has served since 2010.

Following a five-month search process, the board extended an offer of employment to Pruitt last month and directed Board Chair Roger Marcum to negotiate a contract.

At today's meeting, the board ratified Pruitt's contract. It calls for him to be paid \$240,000 annually over the course of the 4-year contract.

"The Commonwealth has a rich history of and commitment to improving the lives of its children through public education. I am honored to serve as Kentucky's next commissioner of education and be able to continue that tradition," Pruitt said after signing the contract. "I am excited to work alongside Kentucky's educators and education shareholders to support our students, so they can graduate college/career-ready, realize success in their postsecondary endeavors, get good jobs and help Kentucky prosper."

In addition to working at Achieve, Dr. Pruitt's prior experience includes chief of staff, associate state superintendent, director of academic standards, and science and mathematics program manager with the Georgia Department of Education; and high school chemistry teacher in Fayetteville and Tyrone, Georgia. He earned a bachelor's degree from North Georgia College and State University; a master's from the University of West Georgia and a Doctorate of Philosophy from Auburn University.

Pruitt is a native of Talmo, Georgia. He and his wife have two children, a son in college and a daughter who is a high school junior and will be attending public school in Kentucky once the family relocates.

Dr. Pruitt's first official day on the job will be Friday, October 16.

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